

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL EXTENSION:

El Camino Hospital has an extension of the “Some Bunny Cares” program.

In 1992, the Junior Auxiliary volunteers at the hospital started distributing bunnies and quilts to traumatized children in their Emergency Room. We are proud of their success!

VOLUNTEERS:

If you are interested in volunteering for the “Some Bunny Cares” program, please contact
Sergeant Richard Elias
Volunteer Coordinator
(650) 903-6707

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your donation can help keep this program in service for young victims for many years.

You can help provide new bunnies by either:
Providing New Stuffed Bunnies or Bunny Money.

Your contribution to the program is tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to the

City of Mountain View

*with **Some Bunny Cares** in the memo portion*

Please mail it to:

Mountain View Police Department
Some Bunny Cares Coordinator
1000 Villa Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
(650) 903-6348

THE STARFISH

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a frail old man.

As he approached the old man, he saw him picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea.

The young man gazed in wonder as the old man again and again threw the small starfish from the sand into the water.

He asked, “Old man, why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?”

The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

“But there must be thousands of beaches and millions of starfish!” exclaimed the young man. “How can you make any difference?”

The old man looked down at the small starfish in his hand and as he threw it to the safety of the sea, he said, **“I make a difference to this one.”**

Irv Furman, May 1989

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD!**



**THE MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS...**

SOME BUNNY CARES

**A UNIQUE SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE
VICTIM'S OF NEGLECT, ABUSE AND ABANDONMENT...**

DEAR FELLOW CITIZEN:

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" IN THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE. AS PART OF THIS COMMITMENT, THE "SOME BUNNY CARES" PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED IN 1990.

THE "SOME BUNNY CARES" PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE EMOTIONAL FIRST AID TO YOUNG VICTIMS, IN THE FORM OF A HUGGABLE AND LOVABLE STUFFED TOY BUNNY.

THIS BUNNY PROVIDES THE CHILD CONTROL OVER SOMETHING IN THEIR LIFE, WHICH IS SO VERY IMPORTANT WHEN THE CHILD FEELS MOST VULNERABLE AND HELPLESS.

AS THE PROGRAM PROGRESSED MANY CHILDREN WERE MISSING THE BASIC CLOTHING NECESSITIES THAT MANY PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED. THERE WERE CASES WHERE POLICE OFFICERS WOULD PROVIDE THEIR OWN POLICE JACKETS TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN TO THE CHILDREN SHELTER.

IN AN EFFORT TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN, A QUILT EXTENSION WAS IMPLEMENTED TO HELP GIVE THE CHILDREN COMFORT AND WARMTH WHILE THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GOING THROUGH THE SYSTEM.

THIS PROGRAM CONVEYS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY:

- We care!
- Children are not bad because something happened to them.
- They are worthy.
- We are here to give help and support in their time of need.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse is legally defined as any act of omission or commission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development.

THESE ACTS INCLUDE

- Physical abuse and corporal punishment resulting in an injury
- Emotional abuse
- Emotional deprivation
- Physical neglect and/or inadequate supervision
- Sexual abuse and exploitation

Many people are under the misconception that if a family is reported for child abuse or neglect that the parents will be arrested and the child taken away from the family.

Although, abuse or neglect may occur, the family is usually referred to counseling or parenting classes. In neglect cases, the family may be referred to public assistance agencies.

Your awareness and concern will possibly save a child from serious injury or death.

HOW DO THE BUNNIES HELP KIDS?

- The first contact such children have with a police officer can effect them the rest of their lives. We want to help the children adjust to the trauma by being part of the healing process.
- The bunny will help the child accept the officer as a helping, non-threatening adult who is there to protect them.
- Dealing with children who are neglected, abused or assaulted, we need to help them overcome the fear of telling someone what has happened.
- This bunny, as an unconditional friend, will provide a source of comfort to the child after the officer's interviews.
- The bunny can be used as a means in which the officer can interact with the child and help ease the tension.
- The bunny reduces the child's anxiety, it is reliable, dependable, always available for a hug, to tell a secret to or just sit with the child.
- If the child needs to be placed in protective custody, the bunny will be able to accompany the child to the Children's Shelter.

You can participate by helping a child cope. Help take the fear away, all you need to do is donate a new stuffed bunny or provide bunny money.